



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

December 16, 2011

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

In over 1,500 cities across the globe, citizens have gathered to express their concerns in a public way. The Occupy Movement has seen thousands of people taking over parks, squares and streets, some lawfully, some not.

Here in the District of Columbia, two Occupy groups have erected tent cities at Freedom Plaza and at McPherson Square – both federal property. In neither case was the District Government consulted on the legality or appropriateness of long-term protestors inhabiting these respective locations.

The decisions that led to these on-going protests were made entirely by the National Park Service and yet have forced the city to incur significant costs. It has fallen to the residents of the District of Columbia, through their tax dollars, to provide services to ensure a safe and peaceful protest in our city. As of December 1, 2011, those costs – including law enforcement personnel including overtime, public sanitation, and park and street maintenance and cleaning – have exceeded \$1,647,000.

Director Jarvis, this is unfair and must be corrected immediately. On behalf of the District of Columbia, I am requesting a full and complete reimbursement of all costs incurred by the District of Columbia in regards to the Occupy Movement at McPherson Square, Freedom Plaza and other locations throughout the city. Our citizens cannot be expected to pay for the consequences of a decision in which they have no say.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I have designated Allen Lew, City Administrator, as the point of contact for the District until the payment issue has been resolved. He can be reached at allen.lew@dc.gov or (202) 724-5400.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.
Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

cc: Allen Lew, City Administrator